

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
8:00 p.m. – 8:51 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stullich, Cook, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Brian Burrell, Student Liaison; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Jill Clements, Director of Human Resources; Terry Schum, Director of Planning.

Mayor Fellows opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. He announced that there would be a Special Worksession following the regular meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan. Councilmember Afzali led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2011 Regular Meeting and the confidential minutes of the January 11 and January 18, 2011 Executive Sessions. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Nagle announced that the North College Park Citizens Association would meet on Thursday at Davis Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Councilmember Wojahn said “Pick Up America” would hold a clean-up event in north College Park on Sunday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m. Meet in the REI Shopping Center. This is one of several clean-ups in the area.

Councilmember Catlin said the Lakeland Civic Association would have their monthly meeting on Thursday February 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Perry congratulated Chris Hanburger for being inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame. He is a former City businessman.

Councilmember Afzali thanked Dr. Loh for the Purple Line forum that was held on campus last week.

Mayor Fellows thanked the University and President Loh for the bonfire they hosted after the Duke game. It was a positive event.

Councilmember Mitchell also discussed Duke Week events and thanked Chief Mitchell and the Prince George’s County Police for their efforts. She also announced the Prince George’s County Municipal Association meeting would be held February 11 in New Carrollton.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Councilmember Wojahn added a letter to the 21st Delegation regarding state funding for the Prince George's County schools. This will be item 11-G-18.

Delegate Peña-Melnik requested the City's support for House Bill 289 – Unauthorized Signs on State Highway Rights-of-Way. The City has supported this bill in the past. This will be item 11-G-19.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro informed Council that there is a new addressee on the letter to the County on CB-1 which is item #11-G-16 on tonight's agenda. The letter should go to Jackie Brown. He also announced that complete Council packets are now being posted on the City's website on the Monday prior to the meeting. We don't know yet how long they will stay up – we will try for one month to start.

Student Liaison Comments: None.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items:

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: He complained about traffic on US 1 on Saturday after the UMD game. The signal controls are taken over by the UMD police and they give priority to people exiting the University and disadvantage other traffic. He also asked Council their response to his December request that Council set up a task force to study Code Enforcement. He asked Council to give that some consideration.

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: Discussed his concerns about safety at the intersection of US 1 and Hartwick Road and asked if the City could look at a signal there. Mr. Nagro clarified that is a state road and the City doesn't control it, but we can ask SHA for updated data. Staff will pull the history about earlier plans.

Presentation: Councilmember Wojahn explained the background for this presentation: at College Park Day last fall, there was a "This Is My Heritage" poster contest to celebrate our diverse community. Each school picked winners in two age groups from among the many entries. Presentations were made to the winners.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to adopt the Consent Agenda which consisted of the following items:

- 11-R-01 Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission Regarding Variance Application Number CPV-2010-11, 4603 Fordham Road, College Park, Maryland, Recommending Approval Of A Variance Of 6% From The Maximum Allowable Lot Coverage To Allow Replacement Of An Existing Driveway.**

Approval of a Letter in Support of CB-1-2011 concerning M-NCPPC -- Prince

11-G-16 George's County District Council – Delegation of Powers

The motion carried 8 – 0 – 0.

Action Items:

11-O-02 Introduction Of 11-O-02, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 125 “Housing Regulations”, Article I “General Provisions” By Repealing And Reenacting §125-3 “Notification Of Violation”, And §125-10 “Responsibilities Of Owners And Occupants” To Prohibit The Location Or Use Of Furniture On A Roof And Chapter 110 “Fees And Penalties” To Provide A Penalty For Violation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Afzali to introduce Ordinance 11-O-02.

Councilmember Stullich read the title into the record and announced that the public hearing will be held on March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

11-O-03 Introduction of 11-O-03, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 190 “Zoning”, Article I “Revitalization Overlay District” By Renaming The Article And Repealing And Reenacting §190-1 “Purposes”, §190-4 “Powers And Duties Of The City Advisory Planning Commission To Conduct Hearings”, §190-10 “Departures From Design Standards”, §190-11, “Exceptions To The Commission’s Recommendation Regarding Departures” And §190-16 “Appeal”; Adding §190-11 “Certification, Revocation And Revision Of Nonconforming Uses”, §190-12, “Minor Changes To Approved Special Exceptions, In General”, §190-13, “Minor Changes, Commission”, §190-14, “Limited Minor Changes, Planning Director”, §190-15, “Specific Changes” And §190-16 “Alternative Compliance”; Repealing §190-2 “Boundary”; Renumbering § 190-3, “Definitions”, § 190-5 “Criteria For Granting Variances”, § 190-6 “Procedure For Granting Variances; Filing; Fees; Public Hearing”, §190-7 “Exceptions To The Commission’s Recommendation Regarding Variances”, §190-8 “Validity Period Regarding Variances”, §190-9 “Refiling Variance Requests”; And Article II, §190-13 “Signs”, And Amending Chapter 110 “Fees And Penalties” To Set Or Increase Fees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to introduce Ordinance 11-O-03.

Councilmember Perry read the title into the record and announced that the Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

11-G-17 A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to reappoint Ed Lynch to the Ethics Commission and to reappoint Alan Bradford to the Recreation Board. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

11-G-18 Approval of a letter to the 21st District Delegation to support funding in the Prince George's County Public Schools.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to approve a letter to the 21st District Delegation requesting the state reinstate funding to the County schools.

Councilmember Wojahn said that the County Board of Education has expressed concerns about cuts in state funding of our County schools. The schools are facing their own funding issues that were made worse by additional cuts in state funding. This letter is requesting the state put that money back in the budget. Our schools have made quite a bit of progress over the past few years and the County budget cuts are already severe enough and it is a shame that the state is also proposing cuts in funding to our schools.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Mitchell agreed that we need to send this letter.

Councilmember Perry said this will apply to all schools in the County and asked if the agency is being as efficient as it can with the money it already has. No one would say they don't care about the kids. Maybe the priorities of the state need to be addressed.

Councilmember Stulich requested a copy of the letter also be sent to Superintendent Hite.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

11-G-19 Approval of letter in support of House Bill 289 – Unauthorized Signs On State Highway Rights-Of-Way

A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to send a letter in support of House Bill 289, Unauthorized Signs On State Highways.

Councilmember Afzali said this is something we have supported in the past and should continue to support now.

Councilmember Catlin asked the City attorney if this included signs on utility poles in the rights-of-way. The City Attorney said this bill allows the removal of signs anywhere in the state right-of-way, but it eliminates a restriction on how long campaign signs can be up there. The local laws would apply as to campaign signs.

There were no comments from the audience.

There were no comments from Council.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Afzali announced there would be a fundraiser on Saturday, February 12 at the Berwyn Café.

Councilmember Stullich expressed her concern about some property owners who do not clear their sidewalks after it snows. We need to encourage their compliance.

Councilmember Perry commented that the speed cameras are successful in reducing accidents and accidental deaths. He also asked how much state slot machine revenue the state of Maryland is getting.

Councilmember Wojahn asked to add two items to the next Four Cities agenda: The proposal to move Narragansett Run at Greenbelt Station, and the Greenbelt Sector Plan.

Comments from the Audience: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to adjourn from the regular meeting. The Council will reconvene in Special Worksession to review the draft FY 2012 Action Plan of the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, and will not be coming back into regular session. The motion carried 8 – 0 – 0 and Mayor Fellows adjourned the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date
Approved